

United States Patent Application

Title of the Invention

REAGENT SETUP METHOD AND REAGENT  
SETUP PROCESSING EQUIPMENT

Inventors

Masaharu NISHIDA,  
Takeshi SATO,  
Hiroshi MITSUMAKI.

09940593.082901

## REAGENT SETUP METHOD AND REAGENT SETUP PROCESSING EQUIPMENT

5 [0001]

10           In order to start up an analytical apparatus and put it into use, parameters on the required reagents of a plurality of reagent manufacturers are registered on an inspection item basis, that is to say, reagent setup or reagent parameter setup takes place.

15 [0003]

Following completion of reagent setup for Company A's reagents, reagent setup for Company B's reagents takes place, which is further followed by reagent setup for Company C's reagents. In this way, the same steps are repeated for each company (reagent manufacturer).

[ 0004 ]

25 Under prior art, since separate reagent setup operations are performed for each reagent manufacturer as described above, the reagent setup time tends to increase, and this, in turn, not only increases the startup time for the analytical apparatus

correspondingly, but also makes related preparatory steps troublesome for the user.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 [0005]

In view of the above, the present invention is intended to provide the methods and equipment that enable the reduction of the total time required for reagent setup even in, and hence, the simplification and acceleration of the startup of, an analytical apparatus in which a plurality of reagent manufacturers are involved.

[0006]

[Means of Solving the Problems]

The present invention provides the methods and equipment described below.

[0007]

The present invention provides a reagent setup method intended for registering parameters on the required reagents of a plurality of reagent manufacturers on an inspection item basis in an analytical apparatus, wherein the reagent setup method is characterized in that:

parameters on the required reagents of the multiple reagent manufacturers are entered for each type of reagent,

the reagent-dependent parameters corresponding to the particular specifications of the analytical apparatus are stored in batch form into a storage medium, and

the batch-stored reagent-dependent parameters corresponding to the analytical apparatus specifications are

0040593.032901

registered in the corresponding analytical apparatus by use of the storage medium.

[0008]

5 The present invention provides a reagent setup method intended for registering parameters on the required reagents of a plurality of reagent manufacturers on an inspection item basis in an analytical apparatus, wherein the reagent setup method is characterized in that:

10 parameters on the required reagents of the multiple reagent manufacturers are entered for each type of reagent,

the reagent-dependent parameters corresponding to the particular specifications of the analytical apparatus are stored in batch form into a storage medium,

15 the batch-stored reagent-dependent parameters corresponding to the analytical apparatus specifications are registered in the corresponding analytical apparatus by use of the storage medium, and

20 a series of data measurements based on the batch-registered reagent-dependent parameters corresponding to the analytical apparatus specifications are performed using the required reagents of the multiple reagent manufacturers.

[0009]

25 Features of the present invention include the creation of a series of result reports immediately after a series of data measurements.

[0010]

The present invention provides an analytical apparatus startup support method that includes a reagent setup step in

0940593-082901

which parameters on the required reagents of a plurality of reagent manufacturers are to be registered on an inspection item basis in an analytical apparatus, wherein the analytical apparatus startup support method is characterized in that:

5 parameters on the required reagents of the multiple reagent manufacturers are entered for each type of reagent; the reagent-dependent parameters corresponding to the particular specifications of the analytical apparatus are stored in batch form into a storage medium, and; the batch-stored

10 reagent-dependent parameters corresponding to the analytical apparatus specifications are registered in the corresponding analytical apparatus by use of the storage medium.

[0011]

The present invention provides an analytical apparatus startup support method that includes a reagent setup step in which parameters on the required reagents of a plurality of reagent manufacturers are to be registered on an inspection item basis in an analytical apparatus, wherein the analytical apparatus startup support method is characterized in that:

15 parameters on the required reagents of the multiple reagent manufacturers are entered for each type of reagent; the reagent-dependent parameters corresponding to the particular specifications of the analytical apparatus are stored in batch form into a storage medium; the batch-stored reagent-dependent

20 parameters corresponding to the analytical apparatus specifications are registered in the corresponding analytical apparatus by use of the storage medium, and; a series of data measurements based on the batch-registered reagent-dependent

25

00940593.062901

parameters corresponding to the analytical apparatus specifications are performed using the required reagents of the multiple reagent manufacturers.

[0012]

5       The present invention provides an analytical apparatus startup support method that includes a reagent setup step in which parameters on the required reagents of a plurality of reagent manufacturers are to be registered on an inspection item basis in an analytical apparatus, wherein the analytical apparatus startup support method is characterized in that a series of data measurements based on the batch-registered reagent-dependent parameters corresponding to the particular specifications of the analytical apparatus are performed using the required reagents of the multiple reagent manufacturers.

15       [0013]

20       The present invention provides reagent setup processing equipment by which parameters on the required reagents of a plurality of reagent manufacturers are to be registered on an inspection item basis in an analytical apparatus, wherein the reagent setup processing equipment is characterized in that it comprises: an input means for entering parameters on the required reagents of the multiple reagent manufacturers for each type of reagent; a storage medium into which the reagent-dependent parameters corresponding to the particular specifications of the analytical apparatus can be stored in batch form, and; a registration means by which the batch-stored reagent-dependent parameters corresponding to the analytical apparatus specifications can be registered in the corresponding

analytical apparatus by use of the storage medium.

[0014]

The present invention provides reagent setup processing equipment by which parameters on the required reagents of a plurality of reagent manufacturers are to be registered on an inspection item basis in an analytical apparatus, wherein the reagent setup processing equipment is characterized in that it comprises:

an input means for entering parameters on the required reagents of the multiple reagent manufacturers for each type of reagent; a storage medium into which the reagent-dependent parameters corresponding to the particular specifications of the analytical apparatus can be stored in batch form; a registration means by which the batch-stored reagent-dependent parameters corresponding to the analytical apparatus specifications can be registered in the corresponding analytical apparatus by use of the storage medium, and; a data measuring means by which a series of data measurements based on the batch-registered reagent-dependent parameters corresponding to the analytical apparatus specifications can be performed using the required reagents of the multiple reagent manufacturers.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a diagram showing a reagent setup method, one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is an analytical apparatus setup diagram and a comparative diagram against the prior scheme.

FIG. 3 is a detailed diagram of processing equipment.

FIG. 4 is a view showing the screen display made at the apparatus of user X.

FIG. 5 is a comparative representation of the total reagent setup time between the prior scheme and a usage scheme embodied according to the present invention.

FIG. 6 is a comparative representation of a data measuring time between the prior scheme and a usage scheme embodied according to the present invention.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0015]

The preferred embodiments pertaining to the present invention are described below using drawings.

[0016]

FIG. 1 shows a reagent setup method, one embodiment of the present invention.

[0017]

Reagent manufacturers 1, a reagents and apparatus services provider 2, and a user (inspection room) 3 get involved in this embodiment of the present invention.

[0018]

Reagent manufacturers 1 consist of reagent manufacturers A, B, and C. Parameters 11, 12, and 13, each of which relates to the required reagents of reagent manufacturer A, B, or C, respectively, are concurrently transmitted to reagents and apparatus services provider 2 in the form of either communications lines, which function as transmission circuits



14, 15, and 16, or floppy disks. Reagents and apparatus services provider 2 receives a request (order) for reagent setup 22 in analytical apparatus 21 which was manufactured by an analytical apparatus manufacturer.

5 [0019]

After receiving reagent parameters 11 to 13, reagents and apparatus services provider 2 stores the parameters in batch form into a storage medium (described later). The batch-stored reagent-dependent parameters corresponding to the particular analytical apparatus specifications are registered in analytical apparatus 21 by use of the storage medium in order to complete the reagent setup step. The registration is conducted for either the analytical apparatus of the corresponding analytical apparatus manufacturer before the apparatus is delivered, or the analytical apparatus that was delivered to the user.

[0020]

Analytical apparatus 31 that has been started up is installed in the inspection room of user 3.

20 [0021]

In FIG. 2, analytical apparatus startup based on the present invention is represented in comparative form with respect to the prior scheme. Under the prior scheme, the contents of floppy disks A, B, and C (namely, floppy disks 32) which contain parameters relating to the required reagents of companies (reagent manufacturers) A, B, and C, respectively, are sequentially registered in analytical apparatus 33 of user X according to the schedule of the user. In this case, the

contents of the floppy disks are registered in sequence so that item 5 of company A (reagent manufacturer A), item 2 of company B, item 3 of company A, item 5 of company B, item 7 of company C, and item 8 of company C correspond to the inspection items 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 8, respectively, within apparatus 33 of user X.

[0022]

Under the method embodied according to the present invention, the respective items of companies A, B, and C are concurrently transmitted to processing equipment 35 via floppy disks 34, namely, floppy disks A, B, and C, respectively, then a parameter recording floppy disk 36 for user X is created from the floppy disks mentioned above, and each item is recorded on floppy disk 36 during batch processing 37.

[0023]

All reagent parameters are registered in batch form in apparatus 33 of user X by use of the parameter recording floppy disk 36 for user X.

[0024]

Although this embodiment uses a floppy disk format to register all reagent parameters in batch form in apparatus 33 of user X, all parameters can likewise be registered in batch form by use of networked lines.

[0025]

Details of processing equipment 35 are shown in FIG. 3.

[0026]

Processing equipment 35 comprises a parameter registration feature 41, a database 42, a specifications-parameters linking

feature 43, and a user - parameter set processing means 44.

[0027]

As described earlier in this SPECIFICATION, all parameters on the respective reagents from reagent manufacturers A, B, and C, are concurrently registered in the parameter registration feature 41 of the processing equipment 35 of reagents and equipment services provider 2.

[0028]

In addition to the user-dependent specifications 45 (for example, X-abc, Y-def) of users X, Y, and Z, reagent-dependent parameters 46 (for example, A-1001, B-1002, C-1003) are recorded in database 42.

[0029]

Specifications-parameters linking feature 43 establishes linkage between user-dependent specifications 45 and reagent-dependent parameters 46, and processes parameter set 1 for user X and parameter set 2 for user Y.

[0030]

The screen display made at the apparatus of user X by batch registration is shown in FIG. 4.

[0031]

Inspection item name 52, reagent manufacturer name 53, and item code 54 are listed on display 51 in the figure.

[0032]

FIG. 5 is a comparative representation of the total reagent setup time between the prior scheme and a usage scheme embodied according to the present invention. As shown in the figure, under the prior scheme, setup of Company A's reagents is

accomplished by executing parameter registration, data measurement, and result reporting, in that order, and the same also applies to Company B's and Company C's reagents. Undoubtedly, therefore, the time required is equal to a multiple of the number of reagent manufacturers involved.

[0033]

Under the usage scheme according to the present invention, since, as described earlier in this SPECIFICATION, all respective parameters on Company A's, Company B's, and Company C's reagents are concurrently recorded on floppy disks and then registered in one floppy disk and since the parameter registration, data measurement, and result reporting operations are continuously performed, although the time required for the continuous operations themselves increases, the total time required for each operation in reagent setup is reduced and thus the operation time as a whole can be saved as shown in the figure. Also, the user is relieved from the troublesomeness of scheduling the setup and having the reagent manufacturers register the respective reagent parameters.

[0034]

FIG. 6 is a comparative representation of a data measuring time between the prior scheme and a usage scheme embodied according to the present invention. As shown in the figure, under the prior scheme, Company A's data measurement is accomplished by executing preparatory steps, Company A's samples measurement, and apparatus shutdown, in that order, and the same also applies to Company B's and Company C's data. Undoubtedly, therefore, the time required is equal to a multiple

of the number of reagent manufacturers involved.

[0035]

Under the usage scheme according to the present invention, since, as described earlier in this SPECIFICATION, all  
5 respective parameters on Company A's, Company B's, and Company C's reagents are concurrently recorded on floppy disks and then registered in one floppy disk, Company A's, Company B's, and Company C's data measurements are performed in batch form by executing preparatory steps, Company A's samples measurement,  
10 Company B's samples measurement, Company C's samples measurement, and apparatus shutdown, in that order. The time required is therefore reduced.

[0036]

Reagents and equipment services provider 2 charges the  
15 reagent manufacturer or/and user for the setup of the samples and for the early startup of the analytical apparatus.

[0037]

As heretofore described, according to the present invention, since all parameters are concurrently recorded and  
20 registered, even if the reagent information is to be set up in an analytical apparatus in which a plurality of reagent manufacturers are involved, the total reagent setup time required will be reduced and thus the startup of the analytical apparatus can be simplified and accelerated.

[0038]

Also, the reagent setup time required can be further reduced since data measurements can be continuously performed for the required reagents of each company.

[0039]

In addition, the user can make a request (place an order) to the reagents and equipment services provider for batch reagent setup operations and is relieved from troublesome operations associated with the startup of the analytical apparatus.

5

09940593.082901